

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

The meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on February 2, 2009 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Thompson and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call, by Clerk Treasurer Liz Oilar, was answered by Council Members Dave Kelly, Jim Mann, Grace Oilar, William Smith, and Eric Storm, and City Attorney George Loy.

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, a motion was made by Council Member Grace Oilar, and seconded by Council Member Bill Smith, to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Additions were made to the agenda. Under Old Business – Discussion of Utility Billing and New Business – Residentially Distressed Areas

Department Head Reports

Fire Chief Shane Swaim stated that there wasn't much going on – business as usual. The Herald Journal ran an article on the City's Infrastructure Projects and energy conservation is at the top to the Fire Department's list. They need windows replaced and insulation in the attic. He has looked into foam insulation for the attic and has priced it at \$4300.00. Council member Dave Kelly made the motion to insulate the attic at the fire department, seconded by Council member Grace Oilar. All ayes, motion carried. The funds will come from the Common Council's Repair & Maintenance appropriation.

Street Superintendent Doug Roberts stated that it's just winter time and his department is well stocked with materials. They should be in decent shape to finish out this season. He is going to have the brush at the landfill chipped up in the next few weeks. They will start on pothole work.

Sewer Superintendent Joe Mowrer stated that the gentleman from OKRA will be here Thursday. He would like to do an on site review of National Homes project and go over some things. The water is in a solid state so there were no CSO bypasses in January. He is praying for a slow melt.

Water Superintendent Rod Pool stated that everything is pretty normal. They are ahead of schedule on broken mains for this winter. He believes they are going to have more than he has ever seen in all his years at the department. Mayor Thompson encourages everyone to leave their water dripping if they are going to be away from home.

Police Chief Curt Blount stated one of the new cars should be on the road tomorrow. They are both Dodge Chargers. They are working on computer related issues. The radios are here and should be programmed and in the police cars in the next few weeks.

Parks Superintendent Mitch Billue stated that on March 14th and March 15th he will be having students from the University of North Dakota coming to Monticello. This is a program that they developed with the University of Missouri. Both groups have a destination and perform a service project in that area. Along the way, they stop at five cities and we are one of them. They will help Mitch on the 15th getting the Jordan property ready for the Skate Park development. Council

member Grace Oilar's ladies group from her church will be feeding them and they will stay at the Anheier Building the evening of the 14th. He has been reading information on the Virginia Baker Creamer Pool Spa Act. It has to do with safety in grate systems for pools and spas. There is concern for the grate in the bottom of the pool. He is checking to make sure we meet the standards. He received a \$5000.00 donation from Walmart for the parks.

Financial Report

Clerk Treasurer Liz Oilar addressed the Council with the current Quarterly Cash Advisory Services Report from Umbaugh for the City's CD's. From July 17, 2008 to December 31, 2008, the City had made \$41,389.54 in CD interest. By the end of the next quarter, the City will have made an additional \$18,217.27, for a grand total of \$59,606.81. Liz is very pleased with this and Umbaugh's help in the investments.

Utility Billing

Mayor Thompson stated that the City is trying to get the utility monthly billing on a one month cycle. Currently the utility bills are two months behind. With this new billing cycle, customers would be paying for only the previous month. City Attorney George Loy stated that this is going to require a revision of the current utility ordinance. This will require 10 day published notice ahead of time. A letter will go out to the utility customers explaining the proposed changes to the billing cycle. Council member Jim Mann made the motion to direct City Attorney George Loy to draft an ordinance amendment to the current utility ordinance for billing cycle changes, seconded by Council member Bill Smith. All ayes, motion carried. March 2, 2009 was set for the public hearing date.

Consideration of Animal Warden/Abatement Officer – Police Department

Police Chief Curt Blount has asked the Council for a full time Animal Warden/Abatement Officer at the Police Department. This person will take care of animal control and abatement issues. This position's hours have not yet been decided. The salary was set at \$25,000.00. Council member Grace Oilar made the motion to establish an Animal Warden/Abatement Officer position, with a salary of \$25,000.00, seconded by Council member Jim Mann. All ayes, motion carried.

Residentially Distressed Areas

Mayor Thompson gave the Council copies of a Resolution and information from Peru's Mayor Walker. There are guidelines that define a residentially distressed area. These areas could possible receive a tax abatement set up by the City. The main goal is to get some investment in property, which is our funding source. We want to try to improve property and build property. Mayor Thompson would like to form a committee to look into this issue. Council member Jim Mann and Bill Smith volunteered, along with City Attorney George Loy.

Mayor Thompson stated that he has received a letter from INDOT on the 2008 Group III program application and they believe that our 6th Street project is a good candidate for 100% Economic Recovery Funds. INDOT will hold a special meeting to award funds for this project as soon as practical based upon the final passage of the Economic Recovery Bill.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Liz Oilar
Clerk Treasurer